

Reaching The Unreached

G. Kallupatti, Near Batlagundu, Theni Dt. 625 203

Happenings of July 2025

Dear Well-wishers,

Celebration of the centenary of the birth of Bro. James Kimpton FSC, Founder, RTU

Greetings from RTU. We have been busy marking the 100th anniversary of the birth of RTU's founder, Br James Kimpton, with a series of celebrations this month.



The main festivities began on 24th July with the opening of a Centenary Arch at the entrance to our main campus, symbolising 'A Century of Compassion, Commitment, and A Legacy of Love'. Trustees from RTU-UK, Ian Brady and Margaret Kimpton, officially opened the arch alongside local leaders, community members, esteemed alumni, and RTU's cherished children and staff. The ceremony was blessed by Fr Antony, who expressed gratitude to all the local people who contributed to the arch's magnificent construction.



Later, the rural heartlands of Theni District gathered to honour Br James, remembered affectionately as Thatha (grandfather) by the countless lives he transformed across Theni and Dindigul villages. Approximately 2,500 people attended this deeply moving celebration. The

event featured a documentary showcasing Br James's life and RTU's project activities, alongside a sound and light show chronicling his service to the poor. Seventeen staff members who had lived and served alongside him were awarded and honoured during the ceremony. Mr V P Jeyaseelan, Joint Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation and a distinguished RTU alumnus, participated in the celebration, acknowledging Br James's vision as a foundational influence in his own life. Fr Antony recognised Mr Jeyaseelan's achievements and contributions during the event. A commemorative book 'A Legacy of Love: Centenary Birth of Br James Kimpton' was published to cement the legacy of this extraordinary individual who became family to thousands. Evening meals were provided to all 2,500 participants.



On 25th July, children and staff over on our Bodi site celebrated the centenary with enthusiasm. Nirmala Middle School organised this event, which saw 500 local leaders, children, and residents participate. Chief guests included Fr Antony, and Margaret Kimpton from RTU-UK. Several notable individuals were honoured with shields, including Mr Ramesh, Managing Director of Dry Air Technology, Bodi, Mr Murugan, Director of RUADT, former RTU

staff members, Mrs Tamilselvi and Palaniyammal. Students performed wonderful cultural programmes, and delicious meals were provided to all participants.



On 26th July, a special Holy Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev Antony Pappusamy, Emeritus Archbishop of Madurai, to mark Br James's centenary birthday. Following the Mass, Archbishop Pappusamy shared his personal experiences with Br James. Other speakers included Fr Arockiadoss Savarimuthu, OFM, Cap, Provincial Minister, Br Victor FSC, Auxiliary Visitor, India, and Mrs Margaret from RTU-UK, who all offered their recollections. The celebration concluded with Fr Antony honouring all the De La Salle Brothers, Capuchin Brothers, religious, priests, and faithful who attended the event.

Case Study

Thanya Sri, has recently arrived from the Begampur slum area in Dindigul District, after being referred by the Dindigul Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Her journey has been marked by significant sadness and challenges: the loss of her mother in 2019, her father's remarriage, and her abuse by a neighbour, which her uncle reported to the CWC. The related case has now concluded. As an only child, Thanya is now embracing a new family of foster brothers and sisters. Despite the understandable sadness she feels about her mother, the tranquil environment at Miriam Children's Village and the loving care of her foster mother, is becoming a source of peace and security, and RTU remains committed to providing support during this transition. If you can help us care for Thanya Sri or any of our other children, please do [contact](#) us.



Organising Freshers Day Celebration with New Children



On 6th July, we held a Fresher's Day celebration to welcome the new children recently arrived in our care. The event was filled with excitement and camaraderie, creating a memorable experience for all involved. Fr Antony delivered an inspiring speech focusing on 'Awareness about the importance of protecting our campus environment and promoting sustainable practices of gardening'. His words resonated deeply with the gathering, instilling pride and enthusiasm amongst all attendees.

Investiture Ceremony Honours Young Leaders

On 19th July, our childcare team conducted children's elections to choose the new student council for the upcoming academic year. A week later, the Investiture Ceremony was celebrated by children from the Children's Villages and hostels to honour their newly chosen Captains and Vice-Captains. The event was



graced by guests from RTU-UK, who presided over the Captain appointments and they were joined by Fr Antony and Fr Ruben.

Celebrating Tamil Language Talent



On 8th and 29th July 2025, 255 students from RTU's four schools showcased their Tamil language talents through enthusiastic participation in debates, poetry, songs, fancy dress, plays, proverbs, and elocution competitions. This celebration of cultural heritage demonstrated their dedication and linguistic abilities. Students performed exceptionally well, winning prizes and significantly boosting their self-confidence whilst setting them on a path of continued growth and achievement.

St Peter's Higher Secondary School Students Shine at Zonal Level Tournaments



Students from St Peter's Higher Secondary School showcased exceptional talent at recent zonal level football, basketball, Kho-Kho, and throwball tournaments held at the Government Higher Secondary School in Lakshmipuram and our own school grounds. The students clinched first prize in several categories, displaying remarkable skill and sportsmanship. Their outstanding performance earned them selection for upcoming District Level tournaments. All winning students were awarded medals and certificates in recognition of their dedication, hard work, and achievement.

Oath-Taking Ceremonies Foster Student Leadership



On 15th and 18th July 2025, student leaders from RTU's four schools held oath-taking ceremonies at their respective schools in the presence of Fr Antony. The student leaders will

actively participate in school governance, voice their peers' opinions, and contribute to shaping the school environment. This process cultivates valuable skills in teamwork, public speaking, and personal growth, all within a framework that promotes democratic values.

Community Development

New Evening Study Centres in the rural villages of Theni

On 3rd July, three new evening tuition centres opened to support the educational needs of nearly 80 of the poorest rural children. The Gandhi Evening Tuition Centre in Gandhinagar Periyakulam, the Karma Veerar Kamarajar Evening Tuition Centre in Bangalapatti, and the St Anne's Evening Tuition Centre in Kailasapatti were inaugurated by prominent figures including Fr Antony, Fr Peter Sagayaraj, Parish Priest of Periyakulam, the Headmistress of St Anne's Primary School, a local Panchayat councillor, and enthusiastic parents and children. This collaborative effort marks a significant step towards empowering these young learners and fostering a brighter future for the communities.



Providing free houses for rural people



This month RTU built six houses in Theni District. Ian Brady, trustee of RTU-UK opened five houses in Alagarnayakkanpatti village and one house in Velnagar village. Family members invested considerable energy into organising the house opening celebration. All of the new recipients entered their new homes and expressed sincere gratitude to RTU and the benefactors. On the same day, they also

visited the ongoing construction work for houses under the Kalaignar Kanavu Illam Scheme.

Case Study:



Palaniyammal, a 36-year-old woman from Alagarnayakkanpatti village, Theni District, has faced immense hardship as a daily agricultural labourer. Her struggles were compounded by her husband Murugan's desertion six years ago, who, after a history of alcohol abuse and

domestic disputes, remarried and established a new life in Theni, leaving Palaniyammal to shoulder the entire responsibility of her family. As a single mother, she struggled to support her two sons and elderly mother-in-law, all living for 15 years in a rented home without basic amenities. Despite owning land, the dream of a stable home remained out of reach due to financial constraints.

Her plea for housing support to RTU was met with compassion. Recognising the urgency of her situation, the RTU housing team prioritised her case. Through the dedicated efforts of RTU's construction crew, Palaniyammal and her family now have a secure and stable home. This gift has not only transformed their living conditions but has also offered them hope for a brighter future, for which Palaniyammal expresses immense gratitude to RTU and their donor.

A borewell brings relief to Mela Endapulli Village



On 23rd July, a 260-foot borewell was successfully drilled in Mela Endapulli village, located just 18 km from RTU's main campus. This vital project has significantly transformed the lives of 40 families, comprising 175 members, who previously struggled with severe water shortages. The village's agriculture and daily wage labourers often faced reduced water supply from the Panchayat board water tank, resorting to fetching water from nearby farms or relying on expensive water tankers. Now, with this new borewell, the community has a consistent and reliable source of clean drinking water, dramatically improving their daily lives and overall well-being. This sustainable solution was made possible with generous support from St Winefride's Church in Kew, UK. All the villagers expressed their sincere thanks to the donors.

On this momentous occasion, as we celebrate the centenary of the birth of our revered Founder, Br James Kimpton, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering commitment to uplifting underprivileged children and rural communities. Your consistent contributions are a profound testament to your life-transforming love for our children, truly inspiring them to conquer challenges and chase their dreams. Your incredible generosity is absolutely vital to the vulnerable and disadvantaged children in our care, empowering them to believe in themselves and shining a light on their path to success. We are profoundly grateful for the significant and lasting positive impact you've made on their lives, and we wish you all the very best as we continue this vital mission together.

Once again, I thank you sincerely your commitment to support us.

Yours fraternally

Fr J Antony Paulsamy, OFM Cap.
Director